ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

ALBERTA HEALTH DISCIPLINES BOARD

Alberta

85-5800/

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

ALBERTA HEALTH DISCIPLINES BOARD

(Previously: ALBERTA HEALTH OCCUPATIONS BOARD)

For the period of
January 1, 1984 to December 31, 1984

Alberta Health Disciplines Board
9th Floor, 10365 - 97th Street
Edmonton, Alberta
T5J 3W7

January 1985

Alberta
SOLICITOR GENERAL

Our File No.:
Your File No.:

6th Floor, Melton Building, 10310 Jasper Avenue, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada T5J 2W4

January 16, 1985

To The Honourable Dr. Ian Reid
Minister Responsible for
Professions and Occupations

Sir:

I am pleased to present the **Annual Report of the Health Disciplines Board** for the year January 1, 1984 to December 31, 1984.

Respectfully submitted,

Elvin Christenson, E.C.A.
Chairman
Alberta Health Disciplines Board

NOTE TO THE READER:

On December 19, 1984, an extensive amendment to the **Health Occupations Act** was proclaimed. Included in this amendment was a change in title for the **Health Occupations Act** and, consequently, for the Health Occupations Board: the Act became the **Health Disciplines Act** and the Board became the Health Disciplines Board.

In this report the term "Health Disciplines" will be used throughout when reference is made to the provisions of the Act or to the activities of the Board. The term "Health Occupations" will be used only where it is required to express a distinction between the original and the amended Act.

Back Row standing (left to right)

Dr. J.E. Young
Ms. Dona Carlson
Dr. William A.J. Donald
Mr. Dennis Gartner
Mr. Murray W. Ross
Mr. Ted Bruce

Front Row seated (left to right)

Mr. John Low
Mrs. Marlys Carruthers
Mr. Elvin Christenson
Mrs. Lucille M. Lisowski
Mr. D.C.L. Jones

Missing — Dr. C.J. Fairbanks

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I. INTRODUCTION

This report is the third **Annual Report** of the Alberta Health Disciplines Board. This Board was established as the Health Occupations Board under the **Health Occupations Act** in 1981. This report describes the presont **Health Disciplines Act**, the Health Disciplines Board, procedures for establishing regulated health disciplines, and the Board's activities to December 31, 1984. This report is cumulative and summarizes the Board's activities since its establishment.

II. THE HEALTH DISCIPLINES ACT

A. History of the Act

The Government of Alberta first introduced the **Health Occupations Act** (Bill 30) on June 28, 1979; but on November 14, 1979, the Government announced that it would not proceed with Bill 30 in the 1979 Session of the Legislature.

The **Health Occupations Act** (Bill 84) was reintroduced on October 30, 1980, and incorporated many of the suggestions which various concerned groups had presented regarding Bill 30. The **Health Occupations Act** was passed by the Legislature on November 27, 1980 and was proclaimed by the Lieutenant Governor in Council on December 16, 1981.

On November 13, 1984, the Legislative Assembly of Alberta passed the **Health Occupations Amendment Act.** This Act involved extensive changes to the **Health Occupations Act**. The three most significant changes to the Act were as follows:

1. The title of the act was changed to the **Health Disciplines Act** and throughout the Act, wherever applicable, the term "occupation" was replaced by the term "discipline". The intent of this change was to respond to a concern that many groups and individuals had expressed; namely, that the term "occupation" implied a low status. The term discipline was chosen as being more neutral in this respect.

2. The regulation-making powers of the Health Disciplines Board were expanded to permit the Board to make regulations respecting, among other things, requirements for re-registration, temporary registration, and continuing education. Experience with drafting regulations for the first disciplines designated under the Act had revealed that an expansion of the Board's authority in this area was necessary to provide the type of regulation that the health disciplines required.

3. Provisions were made in the Act to allow professional associations, under certain circumstances, to register and discipline practitioners, that is, to permit the professional association to assume the duties normally performed by the health discipline committee and the Registrar of Health Disciplines. The intent of this change was to respond to the desire and ability of many health disciplines to assume a greater responsibility for the regulation of their own practitioners.

On December 19, 1984, these amendments were proclaimed by the Lieutenant Governor in Council.

B. Objectives of the Act

The major objectives of the **Health Disciplines Act** are as follows:

1. to provide a means for regulating a wide variety of health disciplines which are not presently regulated by any provincial legislation in Alberta;

2. to protect the public with legislative safeguards where there is risk of harm from the practice of an unregulated health discipline;

3. to provide protection for practitioners of designated health disciplines who prior to designation may have been contravening the provisions of the **Medical Profession Act** or other acts governing health professions;

4. to implement the Government of Alberta's "Policy Governing Future Legislation for Professions and Occupations" (1977) which stated that each regulated occupation or profession should be self-regulating, where practical, rather than placed under the legislative supervision of another;

5. to establish the Health Disciplines Board to advise the provincial government on matters respecting the future regulation of various health disciplines which are not presently regulated in the Province;

6. to provide a degree of "peer" regulation for those health disciplines regulated under the **Health Disciplines Act**;

7. to put in place, legislation that permits the Government of Alberta to quickly respond to the need and desire for regulation by various health disciplines; and

8. to provide a means whereby those disciplines with well-established professional associations might register and discipline practitioners.

III. ALBERTA HEALTH DISCIPLINES BOARD

A. History of the Board

After the **Health Occupations Act** was proclaimed on December 16, 1981, the Lieutenant Governor in Council established the Health Occupations Board and appointed the members of the Board. The Alberta Health Occupations Board held its first meeting on January 12, 1982.

On December 19, 1984, with the proclamation of the **Health Occupations Amendment Act**, the Health Occupations Board became the Health Disciplines Board. The membership was unchanged.

Since its establishment, the Board has reported to the Minister Responsible for Professions and Occupations. From December 16, 1981 to December 8, 1982, this Minister was the Honourable Dr. P.N. Webber, who is now the Minister of Social Services and Community Health. From December 9, 1982 to December 31, 1984, the Honourable Mr. David King, Minister of Education was the Minister Responsible for Professions and Occupations.

On January 1, 1985, the Honourable Dr. Ian C. Reid, Solicitor General, will assume this responsibility.

B. Membership of the Board

According to the **Health Disciplines Act**, the Alberta Health Disciplines Board is to consist of not more than nine members. At least one, but not more than two members of the Board are to be members of the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Alberta and one is to be a member of the Alberta Dental Association.

Representatives of the Department of Advanced Education and of the Department of Hospitals and Medical Care are entitled to attend the meetings of the Board as observers. The provision of an observer from the Department of Hospitals and Medical Care was made in the 1984 Amendment. This observer will be appointed in 1985.

The Secretariat of the Alberta Health Disciplines Board consists of the Registrar of Health Disciplines who is also Secretary to the Board, and any other staff provided by the Minister to carry out the work of the Board.

The current members of the Alberta Health Disciplines Board and of the Board's Secretariat are given in Table I.

TABLE I
MEMBERS OF THE ALBERTA HEALTH DISCIPLINES BOARD AND OF THE BOARD'S SECRETARIAT FOR 1984

Board Members

Chairman	Mr. Elvin Christenson, FCA, Edmonton
Deputy Chairman	Mrs. Marlys Carruthers, Calgary
Members	Dr. William A.J. Donald, Calgary
	Dr. C.J. Fairbanks, Calgary
	Mr. D.C.L. Jones, Calgary
	Mrs. Lucille M. Lisowski, Edmonton
	Mr. John W. Low, Ponoka
	Mr. Murray W. Ross, Edmonton
	Dr. J.E. Young, Edmonton (appointed October, 1984)

Secretariat

Registrar	Mr. Dennis Gartner
Research Officer	Ms. Dona Carlson

Observer

Advanced Education	Mr. Ted Bruce

C. Functions of the Board

The major functions of the Alberta Health Disciplines Board are

1. to conduct investigations to determine if specific health disciplines should be regulated under the Act;

2. to recommend to the Minister that amendments to the **Health Disciplines Act** be passed by the Legislature to designate specific health disciplines;

3. to make regulations regarding the educational qualifications, scopes of practice, and standards of conduct for health disciplines regulated under the **Health Disciplines Act**; and

4. to act as an appeal body for decisions of the Health Discipline Committees, which are established for the health disciplines regulated under the Act.

IV. PROCEDURES FOR REGULATING HEALTH DISCIPLINES

A. Conducting Investigations of Health Disciplines

Under the **Health Disciplines Act**, the Alberta Health Disciplines Board must conduct an investigation (or an assessment) to determine if a specific health discipline should be regulated under the Act under either of the following circumstances:

1. an application or request to the Board has been made by a professional association which represents practitioners of a health discipline for that discipline to be regulated under the Act; or

2. the Minister has requested the Board to conduct an investigation of a health discipline.

Under the Act, the Board must examine the following nine points in conducting its investigation of a health discipline:

1. the complexity of the tasks performed by practitioners of the health discipline;

2. the degree of supervision which personnel receive;

3. the educational programs for that health discipline in Alberta;

4. the educational programs for that discipline outside of the province;

5. the risk to the public from persons practising the health discipline;

6. the services practitioners may provide to individuals requiring care and treatment;

7. the ability of personnel to practise on an independent basis;

8. the desirable qualifications for practitioners; and

9. the minimum standards of competency for personnel.

The Board has established procedures for conducting investigations to determine whether a particular health discipline should be designated under the Act. An investigation of a health discipline involves three stages:

1. Information Gathering (the gathering of information from concerned groups about the discipline and the preparation of a summary report);

2. Information Evaluation (the consideration of written briefs and the hearing of oral presentations from groups which are concerned about the health discipline followed by a formal resolution by the Board to recommend or not to recommend the designation of the health discipline); and

3. Formal Recommendation (the preparation of a report of the final results of the Board's investigation of the health discipline and the transmittal of the Board's recommendation and final report to the Minister).

After the Minister has reviewed the Board's recommendation, it is released to concerned groups or individuals.

B. Designating Health Disciplines

Under the **Health Disciplines Act**, when the Board completes its investigation of a health discipline and has assessed all required matters, it must decide if the degree of risk of harm to the public from the practice of that discipline is such that the discipline should be regulated under the Act. If the Board decides that such risk of harm exists, then it may recommend to the Minister that legislation be enacted to designate the health discipline.

The Government of Alberta may then introduce into the Legislative Assembly of Alberta an amendment to the **Health Disciplines Act** designating that discipline.

C. Establishing Health Discipline Committees

After the Legislature has passed an amendment to the Act designating a health discipline, the Minister will by order establish a Health Discipline Committee for that designated discipline. He will appoint the members of the Committee which will then report to the Alberta Health Disciplines Board.

According to the **Health Disciplines Act**, a Health Discipline Committee must consist of a minimum of three and a maximum of nine members. When a Committee is established, a majority of the members must be practitioners of the discipline and the remaining members must be knowledgeable in the practice of the discipline. Once registration of practitioners has begun, the majority of members on a committee must be registered practitioners and the remaining members must be knowledgeable in the practice of the discipline. It should be noted that the provision for non-practitioners to serve on the committee after a register for practitioners had been established was added by the 1984 Amendment.

The major functions of a Health Discipline Committee are as follows:

1. to act as an advisory body to the Health Disciplines Board with respect to the services that registered practitioners of a designated health discipline may provide, the standards of conduct for registered practitioners, and the qualifications and training required for practitioners;

2. to advise and direct the Registrar of Health Disciplines with respect to applications for registration to practise a designated health discipline and with respect to annual applications for renewal of registration to practise a designated health discipline.

3. to exercise the same authority as all other professional regulatory bodies with respect to disciplinary matters involving registered members of that health discipline.

D. Establishing Designated Health Discipline Associations

The **Health Disciplines Act** provides that, under certain circumstances, a professional association for a health discipline may be permitted to assume the responsibility of registering and disciplining practitioners.

To become a designated Health Discipline Association, an association representing practitioners of a designated health discipline or an association representing practitioners of a health discipline seeking designation may apply to the Health Disciplines Board. The Board will then consider the application in light of the following factors:

1. the number of members in the association,

2. the proportion of practitioners of the health discipline who are members of the association,

3. the length of time the association has existed,

4. the financial stability of the association,

5. whether the association represents or is normally engaged in representing its members in negotiating collective bargaining agreements or in any proceedings under the collective bargaining agreement, and

6. any other matters it considers appropriate.

In 1985, the Board will be establishing more formal guidelines for designating health discipline associations.

If a health association is designated under the Act, the health association will be required to appoint a registrar, establish a registration committee, and establish a conduct and competency committee.

The governing body of the designated health discipline association would be responsible for advising the Health Disciplines Board with respect to the services practitioners may provide, the standards of conduct and competency for practitioners and the qualifications or training for practitioners. The governing body of a designated health discipline association serves the same advisory function to the Health Disciplines Board as a health discipline committee.

The registrar of a designated health discipline association has the same responsibilities as the Registrar of Health Disciplines with respect to the registration of practitioners and the issuance of annual certificates to practitioners.

The registration committee has the responsibility of advising the Registrar with respect to those applicants for registration or for renewal of registration who do not meet the requirements specified in the regulations. The registration committee serves the same function as a Health Discipline Committee with respect to registration.

The conduct and competency committee has the responsibility of receiving complaints and of conducting disciplinary hearings. The conduct and competency committee serves the same function as the health discipline committee with respect to receiving complaints and conducting disciplinary hearings.

E. Establishing Regulations for Designated Health Disciplines

Under the **Health Disciplines Act**, the Alberta Health Disciplines Board makes the actual regulations for each designated health discipline. However, the Board is required to consult with the Health Discipline Committee established for the designated health discipline, before it makes any regulations for that discipline.

In practice, the Health Discipline Committee or, if applicable, the Health Discipline Association drafts the regulations for the health discipline, as it is the Committee or the association which is knowledgeable in the practice of the discipline. These regulations are then presented to the Board for review and approval, and presentation to Government.

Under the Act, the Board may make the following kinds of regulations for a designated health discipline:

1. regulations prescribing the services that practitioners of a designated health discipline may provide;

2. regulations prescribing conditions under which or limitations within which practitioners of a designated health discipline may provide services;

3. regulations establishing the qualifications and conditions of eligibility of persons who may apply for registration to practise in a designated health discipline;

4. regulations prescribing the forms which the Registrar of Health Disciplines will use for the purpose of administering the **Health Disciplines Act**;

5. regulations respecting registers which the Registrar shall establish and maintain for each designated health discipline;

6. regulations prescribing standards of conduct and competency for registered practitioners of a designated health discipline;

7. regulations prescribing the date or dates for the annual re-registration of registered members of that discipline;

8. regulations respecting training programs which applicants for registration must have completed in order to practise a designated health discipline in Alberta;

9. regulations respecting examinations to determine the eligibility of applicants who have successfully completed the required training programs;

10. regulations prescribing matters to be entered by the Registrar in the register; [1984 amendment]

11. regulations prescribing the conditions for renewal of registration to be met by a registered member of a designated health discipline; [1984 amendment]

12. regulations respecting training programs and examinations for the purposes of meeting the requirements for continuing education; [1984 amendment]

13. regulations respecting the name, title, description, abbreviation or initial that a member of a designated health discipline may use to indicate that he is a member of that discipline; [1984 amendment]

14. regulations respecting fees payable to the Provincial Treasurer for registration, conducting an examination, and the renewal of registration; [1984 amendment]

15. regulations respecting the temporary registration of a person who is entitled to engage in that health discipline; [1984 amendment]

16. regulations respecting the limitations and restrictions on the practice of a designated health discipline by a person who holds a temporary registration to practise that discipline [1984 amendment].

Under the **Health Disciplines Act**, regulations made by the Board must be approved by the Lieutenant Governor in Council. Also, the Lieutenant Governor in Council may, with respect to any regulations made by the Board, do any one of the following:

1. approve the regulations;

2. vary the regulations and approve the regulations as varied; or

3. disapprove the regulations.

Under the Act, if the Minister has requested the Board to make any new regulations or to amend or repeal any existing regulations and the Board neglects or refuses to make, amend, or repeal the requested regulations within 60 days; then the Lieutenant Governor in Council may make, amend, or repeal the requested regulations.

V. THE REGISTRAR OF HEALTH DISCIPLINES

The **Health Disciplines Act** provides for the appointment of a Registrar of Health Disciplines. The major functions of the Registrar of Health Disciplines are as follows:

1. With respect to the Board

   a. to serve as Secretary,
   b. to conduct the Board's investigations,
   c. to prepare the Board's annual report summarizing the activities of all health disciplines regulated under the Act;

2. With respect to a health discipline governed by a Committee

   a. to serve as Secretary,
   b. to register applicants who meet the qualifications prescribed in the regulations and to refer those applicants who do not meet these qualifications to the Committee,
   c. to issue an annual certificate to registered practitioners who meet the qualifications specified in the regulations and to refer those applicants who do not meet these qualifications to the Committee,
   d. to receive complaints respecting registered practitioners and to refer these to the Committee;

3. With respect to a health discipline governed by a designated health discipline association

   a. to attend discipline proceedings conducted by the conduct and competency committee,
   b. to receive a report from the Association respecting the registration of persons during the year as members of the health discipline and respecting the proceedings before the conduct and competency committee.

VI. INVESTIGATIONS CONDUCTED BY THE HEALTH DISCIPLINES BOARD

Since its establishment, the Health Disciplines Board has conducted investigations of sixteen health disciplines:

As charged by the **Health Disciplines Act**, the Board conducted an investigation for each discipline which focussed upon the following issues:

1. complexity of tasks performed,
2. degree of supervision,
3. training programs in Alberta,
4. training programs outside Alberta,
5. risk to the public,
6. services personnel may provide,
7. ability of personnel to practise independently,
8. minimum qualifications for practitioners, and
9. minimum standards of competency for practitioners.

While all nine issues were considered, the issue of 'risk to the public' was given particular attention.

As part of its investigation procedure, the Board requested that groups concerned with the practice of each health discipline submit written briefs to the Board. In these briefs, the groups were asked to direct themselves primarily to the aforementioned nine issues. The concerned groups contacted for each discipline included professional associations for health personnel, physician organizations, provincial government agencies, and educational institutions. The Board also asked members of the public to submit briefs or letters respecting the designation of herbalism, acupuncture, domiciliary midwifery, hearing aid audiologist, remedial gymnastics and recreational therapy, combined laboratory and x-ray technology, emergency medical technician - ambulance, and electroencephalograph technology.

The next sections will review the results of the investigation for each of the disciplines the Board has investigated. These are listed in the order in which the Board completed its investigation of the disciplines.

A. Emergency Medical Technician-Paramedic

On January 7, 1982, the Honourable Dr. P.N. Webber, Minister Responsible for Professions and Occupations requested that the Board conduct an investigation to determine if the discipline of emergency medical technician-paramedic should be designated under the Act.

The Board invited 17 organizations to submit written briefs on this discipline. Eleven groups submitted briefs and are listed below:

1. Alberta Ambulance Operators Association
2. Alberta Hospitals and Medical Care
3. Alberta Hospital Association
4. Alberta Medical Association
5. British Columbia Ministry of Health
6. Canadian Medical Association
7. College of Physicians and Surgeons of Alberta
8. Manitoba Department of Health
9. Northern Alberta Institute of Technology
10. Registered Emergency Paramedic Association of Alberta
11. Southern Alberta Institute of Technology

Of these, only the Alberta Medical Association chose to make an oral presentation to the Board at its May 11, 1982 meeting.

None opposed the designation of this discipline, although the presentations from British Columbia and Manitoba and from the Canadian Medical Association expressed no opinion respecting designation. The Board completed its investigation of the discipline of emergency medical technician-paramedic on May 11, 1982.

On June 29, 1982, Mr. Elvin Christenson conveyed the Board's recommendation to Dr. Webber, that the discipline of emergency medical technician-paramedic be a designated health discipline.

B. Medical Radiation Technologist

The Board's investigation of this discipline was also initiated by a request from the Honourable Dr. P.N. Webber on January 7, 1982.

The Board contacted 25 groups and invited them to submit briefs on this discipline. The following 15 groups accepted the Board's invitation:

1. Alberta Association of Medical Radiation Technologists
2. Alberta Hospitals and Medical Care
3. Alberta Hospital Association
4. Alberta Medical Association
5. Canadian Association of Medical Radiation Technologists
6. Canadian Medical Association
7. College of Physicians and Surgeons of Alberta
8. Cross Cancer Institute
9. Northern Alberta Institute of Technology
10. Ontario Ministry of Health
11. Ontario Society of Radiological Technologists
12. Provincial Cancer Hospitals Board
13. Quebec Ministry of Health
14. Southern Alberta Institute of Technology
15. Tom Baker Cancer Centre

Of these, only the Alberta Medical Association and the Cross Cancer Institute made oral presentations at the Board's May 26, 1982 meeting. The only opposition to the designation of this discipline came from associations who were concerned that designation of this discipline which includes three disciplines (radiological, radiotherapy, and nuclear medicine technology) would have negative consequences for radiotherapy and nuclear medicine technology as these groups made up only ten percent of the practicing medical radiation technologists in Alberta.

On May 26, 1982, the Board completed its investigation of this health discipline. On July 12, 1982, Mr. Christenson conveyed the Board's recommendation to the Minister that the discipline of medical radiation technologist be a designated health discipline and that the Health Discipline Committee for this discipline have at least one member who is a radiotherapy technologist and one who is a nuclear medicine technologist.

C. Respiratory Technology

The Board's investigation of this discipline was initiated by a request from the Alberta Society of Respiratory Technologists in May of 1982.

The Board invited briefs from 17 organizations and received briefs from the following:

1. Northern Alberta Institute of Technology
2. Southern Alberta Institute of Technology
3. Alberta Hospital Association
4. Alberta Medical Association
5. Canadian Medical Association
6. College of Physicians and Surgeons of Alberta
7. Alberta Association of Registered Nurses
8. Alberta Society of Respiratory Technologists
9. Manitoba Association of Registered Respiratory Technologists
10. Alberta Hospitals and Medical Care
11. Alberta Social Services and Community Health
12. Alberta Advanced Education
13. Manitoba Department of Health

Only one organization opposed the designation of this discipline. It expressed the view that the existent regulatory system was more than satisfactory and that regulating these personnel under the **Health Disciplines Act** might needlessly duplicate or undermine existing regulatory systems, and furthermore, might restrict the interprovincial mobility of these practitioners.

The Board completed its investigation of the discipline of Respiratory Technology on December 1, 1982. On January 26, 1983, Mr. Elvin Christenson informed the Honourable David King, Minister Responsible for Professions and Occupations, of the Board's recommendation, that the degree of risk of harm to the public that may result from the practice of this discipline is such that the discipline should be a designated health discipline.

D. Electrology

The Board's investigation of this discipline was initiated by a request from the Electrolysis Society of Alberta in January of 1982.

The Board requested written briefs of 17 organizations. The following 11 concerned groups elected to prepare written briefs; the first six also made oral presentations at the Board's meeting on January 18-19, 1983:

1. Alberta Dermatology Association
2. Cosmetology Schools of Canada Limited
3. Electrolysis Society of Alberta
4. Foothills Association of Electrologists (Alberta)
5. Kree International (a manufacturer of electrology equipment)
6. Western Society of Certified Electrologists (Alberta)
7. Alberta Hospitals and Medical Care
8. Alberta Medical Association
9. Association of Professional Electrologists of British Columbia
10. College of Physicians and Surgeons of Alberta
11. Electrolysis Association of Ontario

Nine of these concerned groups opposed the designation of this discipline. Among the reasons given for this opposition were the following:

1. The risk of harm to the public from the practice of this discipline is very low.

2. The present system of regulating practitioners is adequate.

3. Electrolysis is not a health discipline, but is rather a cosmetic-related discipline.

4. There is no consensus in the profession as to the need for regulation under the Act.

The Board completed its investigation of the discipline of electrolysis on January 19, 1983. On January 26, 1983, Mr. Elvin Christenson informed the Honourable David King, Minister Responsible for Professions and Occupations, of the Board's recommendation that this discipline not be designated under the **Health Disciplines Act** as the risk of harm to the public from the practice of this discipline was not sufficient to warrant such designation. The Board also noted that there was considerable opposition to the designation of this discipline from concerned groups, including organizations for electrolysis personnel.

E. Herbalist

In a February 26, 1982 letter to the Health Disciplines Board, the Alberta College of Remedial Herbalists Association requested that the Board conduct an investigation to determine if the discipline of herbalist should be a designated health discipline.

Of the 13 groups the Board contacted, the following eight chose to submit written briefs; the first three also chose to make an oral presentation at the Board's February 16, 1983 meeting:

1. Alberta College of Remedial Herbalists Association
2. Dominion Herbal College Ltd.
3. Wild Rose College of Natural Healing
4. Alberta Association of Naturopathic Practitioners
5. Alberta Hospitals and Medical Care
6. Alberta Medical Association
7. Alberta Pharmaceutical Association
8. College of Physicians and Surgeons of Alberta

Four groups opposed the designation of this discipline on various grounds, principally that the degree of risk of harm from the practice of this discipline did not warrant such designation.

On February 16, 1983, the Board completed its investigation of this discipline. The Board concluded that the current practice of herbalism did not constitute a significant degree of risk of harm to the public and, therefore, the Board recommended that this discipline not be designated under the **Health Disciplines Act.** The Board was also cognizant of the fact that the practice of herbalism is regulated under several other acts: **Food and Drug Act, Medical Profession Act, Pharmaceutical Association Act,** which control the types of substances herbalists may employ and the circumstances of their use.

On March 14, 1983, Mr. Christenson conveyed the Board's recommendation to the Honourable Mr. David King, Minister Responsible for Professions and Occupations.

F. Nursing Assistant

On October 28, 1982, the Alberta Association of Registered Nursing Assistants requested that the Board conduct an investigation to determine if the discipline of nursing assistant should be a designated health discipline.

The Board requested written briefs from 32 organizations or concerned groups. The following 13 submitted briefs, and the first three also made oral presentations to the Board:

1. Nursing Assistant Registration Board
2. Alberta Association of Registered Nursing Orderlies
3. Alberta Association of Registered Nursing Assistants
4. Alberta Vocational Centre, Calgary
5. Alberta Vocational Centre, Edmonton
6. Alberta Hospital Association
7. Alberta Medical Association
8. Alberta Association of Registered Nurses
9. Association of New Brunswick Registered Nursing Assistants
10. Saskatchewan Nursing Assistants' Association
11. Alberta Hospitals and Medical Care
12. Alberta Social Services and Community Health
13. Manitoba Department of Health

Of the above 13 groups, four opposed designation under the **Health Disciplines Act** primarily on the grounds that nursing assistants should continue to be registered under the **Nursing Assistants Registration Act.**

The Board completed its investigation of this discipline on March 17, 1983. On May 30, 1983, Mr. Christenson informed the Honourable David King, Minister Responsible for Professions and Occupations, of the Board's recommendations that

1. the **Nursing Assistants Registration Act** be repealed,

2. legislation be enacted to designate the discipline of nursing assistant under the **Health Disciplines Act**, and

3. if the discipline is designated, nursing orderlies should be represented on the committee appointed for this discipline.

G. Rehabilitation Practitioner

On June 21, 1982, the Alberta Association of Habilitative Practitioners requested that the Alberta Health Disciplines Board conduct an investigation to determine if the discipline of rehabilitation practitioner should be a designated health discipline.

The Board solicited written briefs from 20 concerned groups. Of these 20 groups, 12 prepared briefs and are listed as follows:

1. Grant MacEwan Community College
2. Lethbridge Community College
3. Mount Royal Community College
4. Red Deer Community College
5. Alberta Association of Registered Occupational Therapists
6. Psychiatric Nurses Association of Alberta
7. Alberta Social Services and Community Health (Michener Centre)
8. Alberta Social Services and Community Health (Health Services Division)
9. Alberta Hospitals and Medical Care
10. Alberta Medical Association
11. Psychologists Association of Alberta
12. Alberta Association of Habilitative Practitioners

Of these concerned groups, the first seven listed also made oral presentations before the Board. The community colleges, however, made a joint presentation.

Only one group opposed the designation of this discipline. This opposition was based on the belief that designation would impair the employee-employer relationship.

After considering all information presented to it, the Board concluded that the discipline of rehabilitation practitioner should be a designated health discipline. On July 19, 1983, Mr. Elvin Christenson conveyed the Board's recommendation to the Honourable David King, Minister Responsible for Professions and Occupations.

H. Orthopaedic Technology

A November 16, 1982 letter from the Alberta Chapter of the Canadian Society of Orthopaedic Technologists requested an investigation to determine if the discipline of orthopaedic technology should be a designated health discipline.

The Board asked 13 groups to prepare written briefs on the discipline of orthopaedic technologist. The following four groups submitted briefs and the first two also made oral presentations before the Board:

1. Canadian Society of Orthopaedic Technologists
2. Alberta Association of Registered Nursing Assistants
3. Alberta Hospitals and Medical Care
4. Alberta Hospital Association

Two of the concerned groups opposed the designation of this discipline, on the grounds that orthopaedic technologists were specialized nursing assistants and were effectively regulated as such.

At its meeting on June 22, 1983, the Board considered all the written and oral information it had received on this discipline. The Board concluded that the services of an orthopaedic technologist could be and, in general, were provided by nursing assistants. Therefore, the Board decided to recommend that this discipline not be a designated health discipline. Although the practice of orthopaedic technology did involve a clear risk of harm, the best interests of the public would be served by continuing to regulate these practitioners as nursing assistants.

On August 30, 1983, Mr. Christenson conveyed the Board's recommendation to the Honourable Mr. David King, Minister Responsible for Professions and Occupations.

I. Acupuncture

The Board's investigation of the discipline of acupuncture was initiated at the request of the Acupuncture Society of Alberta on March 25, 1982.

The Board solicited written briefs from 15 groups that might be concerned about the discipline of acupuncture. Of these, seven prepared written briefs for the Board's consideration, and four also made oral presentations at the Board's August 2-3, 1983 meeting. These seven concerned groups are listed with the groups making oral presentations listed first:

1. Acupuncture Society of Alberta
2. Canadian Acupuncture Association of Canada Inc.
3. Acupuncture Association of B.C.
4. College of Physicians and Surgeons of Alberta
5. Alberta Association of Naturopathic Practitioners
6. Alberta Medical Association
7. Alberta Hospitals and Medical Care

In addition to these briefs, the Board also received over 150 letters from concerned citizens about the designation of this discipline. At its August meeting, the Board interviewed five of these individuals who had used the services of acupuncturists. The Board also visited two acupuncture clinics in Calgary.

All parties were agreed that the practice of acupuncture involved a clear risk of harm to the public. Those that opposed the designation of this occupation argued that acupuncture was a medical act and the risk involved was such that the discipline should be regulated under the **Medical Profession Act.**

On August 2-3, 1983, the Board considered the information presented in the written briefs, letters from citizens, oral presentations, and interviews. In addition, the Board was very impressed by the public demand for this service and by the very high level of consumer satisfaction. The Board, therefore, concluded that the public interest would best be served by regulating this discipline under the **Health Disciplines Act.**

In view of the risk associated with this discipline, the Board also explicitly recommended that the Health Discipline Committee for this discipline should have a member from the College of Physicians and Surgeons and, that this person should be knowledgeable in the practice of acupuncture.

The Board's recommendations were conveyed to the Honourable Mr. David King, Minister Responsible for Professions and Occupations by Mr. Christenson on October 16, 1983.

J. Domiciliary Midwifery

In a June 14, 1982 letter, the Alberta Council and Register of Domiciliary Midwives Association requested that the Health Disciplines Board conduct an investigation to determine if the discipline of Domiciliary Midwifery should be a designated health discipline.

The Board initially interpreted the request as seeking an investigation of the discipline of midwifery, but it subsequently confined its investigation to domiciliary midwifery at the request of the Alberta Council and Register of Domiciliary Midwives Association.

In conducting its investigation, the Board contacted 19 concerned groups. Sixteen of these groups elected to prepare written briefs on the discipline of domiciliary midwifery. Of these, eight also made oral presentations to the Board at its meeting of September 12-14, 1983. The groups which provided written briefs for the Board are listed as follows with those also giving oral presentation listed first:

1. Alberta Council and Register of Domiciliary Midwives
2. Alberta Association of Registered Nurses
3. Western Nurse Midwives Association
4. Calgary Association of Parents and Professionals for Safe Alternatives in Childbirth
5. College of Physicians and Surgeons of Alberta
6. Alberta Medical Association
7. College of Family Physicians of Canada
8. Faculty of Nursing, University of Alberta
9. British Columbia Midwives Association
10. International Association of Parents and Professionals for Safe Alternatives in Childbirth
11. Society of Alberta Medical Officers of Health
12. Alberta Advanced Education
13. Alberta Hospitals and Medical Care
14. Alberta Social Services and Community Health
15. Association of Childbirth at Home International
16. Alberta Hospital Association

The Board also received 25 letters from individuals who were concerned about this discipline. At its September meeting, the Board interviewed 11 of these individuals who had used the services of a midwife for a homebirth.

The arguments presented in opposition to the designation of this discipline emphasized three issues:

1. Safety - it is too risky to have birth at home, the hospital and its technology are necessary in the event of an emergency.

2. Professional Unity - domiciliary midwifery is a subdiscipline of midwifery; it should not be regulated separately.

3. Backup - at present there is no provision for medical backup at homebirths.

At its September 12-14, 1983 meeting, the Board completed its investigation of the discipline of domiciliary midwifery. The Board concluded that the discipline of domiciliary midwifery was a subset of the larger discipline of midwifery and that it was not in the public interest to partition the discipline. The Board, therefore, recommended that the discipline of domiciliary midwifery not be designated. The Board, also, explicitly noted that its recommendation should not be seen to prejudice an investigation of the discipline of midwifery if an application is received. On January 23, 1984, Mr. Elvin Christenson conveyed the Board's recommendation to the Honourable Mr. David King, Minister Responsible for Professions and Occupations.

K. Hearing Aid Practitioner

The investigation to determine if the discipline of hearing aid audiology should be a designated health discipline under the **Health Disciplines Act** was initiated by a request from the Alberta Hearing Aid Audiologist Association on June 25, 1982.

The Board contacted 16 groups and asked for written briefs. The ten groups that submitted written briefs are listed below with the four groups that also made oral presentations listed first:

1. Speech and Hearing Association of Alberta
2. Alberta Hearing Aid Audiologist Association
3. Alberta College
4. National Hearing Aid Society
5. Alberta Otolaryngological Society (AMA)
6. Alberta Advanced Education
7. Alberta Hospitals and Medical Care
8. Alberta Aids to Daily Living (S.S. & C.H.)
9. Alberta Hospital Association
10. Alberta Council on Aging

Of the ten groups that prepared briefs, five supported designation, three opposed, and two had no opinion. The opposition was, in this case, directed towards the issue of the discipline's title. These groups did not oppose the regulation of these personnel under the **Health Disciplines Act**, but they were concerned that the title of hearing aid audiologist, as the practitioners were called, implied a level of competence and expertise beyond that indicated by the level of training and responsibility of these practitioners.

At its meetings on November 8, 1983 and December 8, 1983, the Board heard oral presentations on the discipline of hearing aid audiology. At its December 8, 1983 meeting, the Board concluded that the discipline should be designated and that the name of the Committee and, therefore, the title of the discipline should not include the term "audiologist". This recommendation was conveyed by Mr. Christenson to Mr. King, Minister Responsible for Professions and Occupations, on May 3, 1984.

On August 30, 1984 Mr. Elvin Christenson, Chairman of the Health Disciplines Board, and Mr. Dennis Gartner, Registrar of Health Disciplines, met with representatives of the Alberta Hearing Aid Audiologist Association. At that meeting, it was agreed that the title, hearing aid practitioner, was appropriate for this discipline. On September 7, 1984, Mr. Christenson conveyed this agreement to the Honourable Mr. King who also agreed that this was a suitable title for the discipline.

L. Orthomolecular Consultant

The Board's investigation of this discipline was initiated by a request from Alberta Orthomolecular Consultants Association on June 17, 1982.

The Board invited written briefs from ten groups representing professional associations for health personnel, physician organizations, and provincial government agencies; and from 40 other agencies throughout North America and Europe which are concerned about the practice of holistic, including orthomolecular, medicine.

The Board received written briefs from the following organizations:

1. Orthomolecular Consultants Association of Alberta
2. Alberta Pharmaceutical Association
3. Alberta Association of Naturopathic Practitioners
4. Alberta Registered Dietitians Association
5. Alberta Hospitals and Medical Care
6. American Holistic Medical Association
7. Association of Concerned Citizens for Preventive Medicine
8. Antistress SA
9. Saskatchewan Council for Alternative Therapy
10. Coalition for Alternative Therapy (British Columbia)

Of these, only the Orthomolecular Consultants Association and the Alberta Pharmaceutical Association chose to make oral presentations at the Board's meeting on February 8, 1984.

The associations that favoured designation of this discipline argued for the value of holistic approaches to medical care. On the other hand, those who opposed designation argued that since orthomolecular consultants diagnose disease and prescribe treatment, they should be medical doctors and regulated under the **Medical Profession Act.** In this respect, it was agreed by those favouring designation that orthomolecular consultants should be trained as medical doctors but they argued that these practitioners should be regulated under the **Health Disciplines Act** rather than the **Medical Profession Act.**

At its meeting on February 8, 1984, the Health Disciplines Board completed its investigation of this discipline.

Mr. Christenson will be conveying the Board's recommendation to Dr. Reid in 1985.

M. Combined Laboratory and X-Ray Technology

The Board's investigation of this discipline was initiated by a July 23, 1982 request from the Alberta Society of Certified Combined Technicians to determine if the discipline of combined laboratory and x-ray technology should be designated under the Act.

The Board invited briefs from 19 groups. The Board received written briefs from the following 13 groups, the first six of which also made oral presentations at the Board's December 8 & 9, 1983 meeting:

1. Alberta Society of Certified Combined Technicians
2. Alberta Association of Medical Radiation Technologists
3. College of Physicians and Surgeons of Alberta
4. Alberta Society of Laboratory Physicians
5. Northern Alberta Institute of Technology
6. Alberta Association of Medical Laboratory Technologists
7. Canadian Society of Laboratory Technologists
8. Alberta Society of Radiologists
9. Canadian Medical Association
10. Kelsey Institute of Applied Arts & Sciences
11. Alberta Advanced Education
12. Alberta Hospitals and Medical Care
13. Alberta Social Services and Community Health

At its meeting in December, the Board concluded that it required more information before it could make a recommendation on this discipline. On March 6, 1984, the Board heard additional oral presentations from:

1. Alberta Hospitals and Medical Care
2. Alberta Hospital Association
3. Three doctors from rural hospitals that employ these practitioners

At its March 6-7, 1984 meeting, the Board completed its investigation of the discipline of combined laboratory and x-ray technology.

On September 6, 1984, Mr. Elvin Christenson informed Mr. King, Minister Responsible for Professions and Occupations, of the Board's recommendation that the discipline of combined laboratory and x-ray technology be a designated health discipline. In its recommendation, the Board indicated that designation would provide a mechanism to define the scope of practice and to ensure proper supervision for combined laboratory and x-ray technicians.

N. Remedial Gymnastics and Recreational Therapy

The Board's investigation of this discipline was initiated by the Alberta Association of Remedial Gymnasts and Recreational Therapists in a letter dated April 15, 1983.

The Board requested written briefs from 46 groups. The 16 associations that presented written briefs are listed as follows with the seven associations that made oral presentations listed first:

1. Alberta Association of Remedial Gymnasts and Recreational Therapists
2. Canadian Association of Remedial Gymnasts
3. Association of Chartered Physiotherapists of Alberta
4. Department of Physical Therapy, Faculty of Rehabilitation Medicine, University of Alberta
5. Mount Royal College
6. Therapeutic Recreational Association of Calgary
7. Medicine Hat District Hospital
8. Remedial Therapy Department - Worker's Compensation Board of British Columbia
9. Royal Alexandra Hospital - Department of Rehabilitation Services
10. Society of Remedial Gymnasts (Great Britain)
11. College of Remedial Gymnastics and Recreational Therapy in Pinderfields, Great Britain
12. Alberta Hospital Association
13. Alberta Association of Registered Occupational Therapists
14. Recreational Administrators in Health Care Settings in Edmonton
15. Alberta Advanced Education
16. Alberta Hospitals and Medical Care

On June 6, 1984, the Health Disciplines Board completed its investigation of the discipline of remedial gymnast and recreational therapist. The Board concluded that while the practice of remedial gymnastics and recreational therapy should be regulated, it was not practical to establish a separate regulatory structure for a discipline with such limited potential for growth. The Board also noted that the practice of remedial gymnastics and recreational therapy was essentially a subset of the practice of physiotherapy and, therefore, it may be advisable to regulate remedial gymnasts under the new **Physical Therapy Profession Act.**

On November 2, 1984, Mr. Elvin Christenson conveyed the Board's recommendation to the Honourable Mr. King, Minister Responsible for Professions and Occupations.

In the fall of 1984, the **Physical Therapy Profession Act** was passed by the Legislature. This Act provides for the registration of remedial gymnasts as physiotherapists.

O. Emergency Medical Technician-Ambulance

The Board's investigation of this discipline was initiated by the Registered Emergency Medical Technician Association of Alberta in a letter dated October 27, 1983.

The Board invited written briefs from 17 groups. The following 12 groups elected to prepare briefs on the discipline of emergency medical technician-ambulance and the first seven also made oral presentations at the Board's September 5, 1984 meeting:

1. Alberta Ambulance Operators Association
2. Parkland Ambulance Association
3. Alberta Vocational Centre
4. St. John Ambulance Society
5. Alberta Medical Association
6. College of Physicians and Surgeons of Alberta
7. Registered Emergency Medical Technician Association of Alberta
8. Alberta Advanced Education
9. Alberta Hospitals and Medical Care
10. Alberta Hospital Association
11. Southern Alberta Institute of Technology
12. Northern Alberta Institute of Technology

Support for the designation of this discipline was virtually unanimous. The only reservations were expressed by St. John Ambulance and the Alberta Vocational Centre. Both provide training in emergency care, and were concerned that designation would eliminate the need or demand for their programs.

The Board completed its investigation of the discipline of emergency medical technician-ambulance on September 5, 1984. On November 1, 1984, Mr. Elvin Christenson conveyed the Board's recommendation to Mr. King, Minister Responsible for Professions and Occupations, that the discipline of emergency medical technician-ambulance be a designated health discipline. He informed the Minister that the Board had also determined that there was general support for having emergency medical technicians-ambulance and paramedic regulated under the same health discipline committee.

P. Electroencephalograph Technologist

The investigation of the discipline of electroencephalograph technologist was initiated by a request from the Alberta Society of Electroencephalograph Technologists Inc., in a letter dated November 16, 1983.

The Board requested written briefs from 28 associations. The following 12 associations prepared written briefs on the discipline of electroencephalograph technologist and the first three also made oral presentations before the Board.

1. Alberta Society of Electroencephalograph Technologist Inc.
2. Calgary General Hospital
3. College of Physicians and Surgeons of Alberta
4. Canadian Association of Electroencephalograph Technologists Inc.
5. Alberta Medical Association
6. Canadian Neurological Society
7. Canadian Association for Child Neurology
8. Toronto Institute of Medical Technology, Division of Continuing Education
9. Alberta Advanced Education
10. Alberta Hospitals and Medical Care
11. Alberta Hospital Association
12. Epilepsy Association of Calgary

On December 5, 1984, the Health Disciplines Board concluded that further investigation was required before a decision could be made respecting this discipline.

VII. HEALTH DISCIPLINE COMMITTEES

A. Respiratory Technologist Committee

The Respiratory Technologist Committee was established by Ministerial Order 120/83 on the 4th of December, 1983.

The members of this Committee are

1. Mr. James Harold Coward, Chairman
2. Dr. Frank Alexander Herbert
3. Ms. Marleen Elaine Irwin
4. Mr. Albert John Maiani
5. Mr. Keith Wilson

During 1984, the Committee met several times to draft regulations for Respiratory Technologists. On May 1, 1984, the Committee presented a draft of the regulations to the Health Disciplines Board for its consideration.

On July 4th, 1984, Mr. Elvin Christenson, Chairman of the Health Disciplines Board, and Mr. James Coward, Chairman of the Respiratory Technologist Committee jointly circulated a draft of the regulations to the stakeholders and other interested groups. Comments on the regulations were received from the following:

1. Alberta Advanced Education
2. Alberta Social Services and Community Health
3. Alberta Hospital Association
4. Calgary General Hospital
5. Alberta Society of Respiratory Technologists
6. Department of Health, Manitoba Health Services Commission
7. The Alberta Association of Chartered Physiotherapists
8. The Canadian Anaesthetists Society
9. The Alberta Medical Association
10. The Conjoint Canadian Anaesthetists' Society/Canadian Thoracic Society, Advisory Committee to the Canadian Society of Respiratory Therapists
11. Alberta Hospitals and Medical Care
12. The Alberta Association of Registered Nurses
13. The Southern Alberta Institute of Technology

The Committee, on the basis of the comments provided by these stakeholders, revised the regulations and presented them to the Health Disciplines Board on September 5, 1984. The Board reviewed this draft, along with the comments that various stakeholders had made. The Board then instructed the Secretary to have Legislative Counsel redraft the regulations in accordance with legal requirements.

B. Medical Radiation Technologist Committee

The Medical Radiation Technologist Committee was established by Ministerial Order 2/84 on January 16, 1984.

The members of the committee are

1. Mr. Ian Fleming, Chairman
2. Mr. Ed Bailey
3. Mr. Larry Curtis
4. Mr. Cam McKay
5. Mrs. Debbie Mallet
6. Mr. Jeffrey Lozon
7. Dr. Larry Playfair

By the end of May, 1984, the Committee had prepared a draft of the regulations for Medical Radiation Technologists. This draft was presented to the Health Disciplines Board for review on June 6, 1984.

On June 26, 1984, Mr. Elvin Christenson, Chairman of the Health Disciplines Board, and Mr. Ian Fleming, Chairman of the Medical Radiation Technologist Committee, jointly circulated a draft of the regulations to the various stakeholders in medical radiation technology: associations for health personnel, employers, government agencies, other regulatory bodies, and training institutions.

By early September, comments had been received from the following stakeholders:

1. Northern Alberta Institute of Technology
2. Southern Alberta Institute of Technology
3. College of Physicians and Surgeons of Alberta
4. The Alberta Medical Association
5. The Canadian Medical Association
6. Alberta Association of Medical Radiation Technologists
7. The Alberta Hospital Association
8. Canadian Association of Medical Radiation Technologists
9. Alberta Hospitals and Medical Care
10. Royal Alexandra Hospitals
11. The Atomic Energy Control Board
12. Cross Cancer Institute
13. Tom Baker Cancer Centre (Technical)
14. Tom Baker Cancer Centre (Medical Physics)
15. Alberta Medical Physicists
16. Prince Edward Island Association of Medical Radiation Technologists
17. Ontario Ministry of Health
18. Manitoba Association of Medical Radiation Technologists
19. Alberta Advanced Education

On the basis of these comments, the Committee revised the regulations and on October 2, 1984 presented the revised regulations to the Health Disciplines Board. The Board, after reviewing and amending the regulations, instructed the Secretary to refer them to Legislative Counsel.

C. Emergency Medical Technician-Paramedic Committee

The Emergency Medical Technician-Paramedic Committee was established by Ministerial Order 1/84 on January 16, 1984.

The members of this Committee are

1. Mr. Dan Osborn, Chairman
2. Mr. Richard White
3. Mr. Joe Heaton
4. Mr. William J. Coghill
5. Dr. T. Sosnowski

By the end of April, 1984, the Committee had prepared draft regulations for Emergency Medical Technicians-Paramedic. These regulations were formally presented to the Health Disciplines Board on May 1, 1984, for its consideration.

On June 27, 1984, Mr. Elvin Christenson, Chairman of the Health Disciplines Board and Mr. Dan Osborn, Chairman of the Emergency Medical Technician-Paramedic Committee, jointly circulated a draft of the regulations to the stakeholders. These stakeholders included associations for health care personnel, training institutions, governmental agencies or departments and employers. In addition to circulating the regulations, the Committee also held two public meetings to review these regulations, in Calgary on August 1, 1984, and in Edmonton on August 13, 1984.

By mid-September, the Committee had received comments from several individuals and from the following organizations:

1. Ambulance Personnel Association of Alberta
2. Northern Alberta Institute of Technology
3. Southern Alberta Institute of Technology
4. St. John Ambulance
5. College of Physicians and Surgeons of Alberta
6. Alberta Medical Association
7. The Canadian Medical Association
8. The Alberta Association of Registered Nurses
9. Alberta Social Services and Community Health
10. Alberta Advanced Education
11. Workers' Health, Safety and Compensation
12. Alberta Hospitals and Medical Care
13. The Alberta Hospital Association
14. The Alberta Safety Council
15. Alberta Urban Municipalities Association
16. British Columbia Ministry of Health
17. Ontario Ministry of Health

On the basis of the comments provided by the stakeholders, the Committee revised the regulations and on October 2, 1984, presented them to the Health Disciplines Board. The Board reviewed the draft of the regulations and the comments that stakeholders had made. The Board instructed the Secretary to refer these regulations to Legislative Counsel for appropriate redrafting.

On November 13, 1984, the designation of Emergency Medical Technician-Paramedic was amended to Emergency Medical Technician so that emergency medical technicians-ambulance and paramedic could be regulated within the same Committee. Regulation of the two groups within the same Committee would also allow for the accommodation of practitioners with intermediate qualifications.

On December 21, 1984, the Minister appointed three additional members to this Committee. These members are

1. Ms. Joyce Holt
2. Ms. Ann Chernuka
3. Mr. Daniel Reid

D. Nursing Assistant Committee

The Nursing Assistant Committee was established by Ministerial Order 108 on September 12, 1984.

The members of the Committee are

1. Ms. Patricia Fredrickson, Chairman
2. Ms. Roberta Metheral
3. Ms. Wilma Poag
4. Ms. Maria Cornelson
5. Ms. Mary Ferries
6. Mr. Peter Langelle
7. Dr. David Chesney
8. Mr. Paul Wolff
9. Ms. Francina Lazarowich

The Nursing Assistant Committee held its first meeting on October 22, 1984, at which time it began its task of drafting regulations for nursing assistants.

E. Acupuncture Committee

The Acupuncture Committee was established by Ministerial Order 107A on September 12, 1984.

The members of the committee are

1. Dr. T. Yoshida, Chairman
2. Dr. Luke Wong
3. Dr. J.W.R. McIntyre

The acupuncture committee held its first meeting on October 29, 1984 and began preparing a draft of regulations for acupuncture.

F. Rehabilitation Practitioner Committee

The Rehabilitation Practitioner Committee was established by Ministerial Order 116 on November 1, 1984.

The members of the Committee are

1. Mr. Mike Kerchinsky, Chairman
2. Mr. Dwayne Simmons
3. Mr. Al Geislinger
4. Ms. Linda M. McKay
5. Ms. Adriana LaGrange
6. Mr. Larry MacDonald
7. Mr. Doug Hauser
8. Ms. Valerie Swann
9. Dr. Jean G. Bellamy

The Rehabilitation Practitioner Committee held its first meeting on December 19, 1984 and began preparing a draft of regulations for rehabilitation practitioners.

VIII. INVESTIGATIONS IN PROGRESS

The Health Disciplines Board has received requests to conduct investigations of several health disciplines. The following investigations are now in progress:

1. Therapeutic Massage - initiated on September 14, 1984, by a request from the Alberta Association of Therapeutic Masseurs.

2. Non M.D. Medical Geneticists - initiated November 22, 1983, by a request from the Canadian College of Medical Geneticists.

3. Homeopathy - initiated May 7, 1984, by a request from the Homeopathic Society of Alberta.

4. Naturopathy - initiated on August 7, 1984, by a request from the Honourable Mr. King, Minister Responsible for Professions and Occupations.

IX. NEW DESIGNATIONS OF HEALTH DISCIPLINES

On November 13, 1984, the Legislative Assembly designated the disciplines of hearing aid practitioner and combined laboratory and x-ray technology. At that time, the designation of emergency medical technician-paramedic was amended to emergency medical technician so that both emergency medical technician-ambulance and emergency medical technician-paramedic could be regulated through the same health discipline committee.

X. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

For additional information about the **Health Disciplines Act** and the Health Disciplines Board please write or telephone:

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Registrar
Alberta Health Disciplines Board
Professions and Occupations
9th Floor, 10365 - 97th Street
Edmonton, Alberta
T5J 3W7

Telephone: (403) 427-2655

Copies of the following are also available:

- Annual Report of the Health Occupations Board (1982, 1983)
- **Health Disciplines Act**